



Issue 14 : Oct11 -Nov11

# Contrails

## Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

### From Eagle to Raptor by John Batchelor

Our talk on 7th September was not about the Eagle F15 as some thought but the Eagle boys paper as John is an artist and illustrator with a world wide reputation for creating cutaway pictures to a photographic standard. John instantly engaged with his audience by showing a picture, drawn when aged four and a half, of a dogfight over Canvey Island, albeit showing a Hurricane being shot down. Having been told there was no money in technical artwork he proceeded to teach himself the skills of putting on paper the subtle tones and textures of technical items - one classic piece was of a Spanish pikeman's helmet which was exquisitely coloured and looked better than a photograph. Continued practice with challenging subjects meant that when he had to seek work, a visit to Eagle, which was famous for its explanatory cutaways, meant he was hired on the spot. A similar chance visit to Purnells - well established again for clear informative diagrams resulted in an instant contract for 1600 illustrations for their forthcoming military series including artillery guns. John showed us a magnificent range of commissions, including postage stamps, that had taken him all over the world and especially to the USA for TWA who wanted a cutaway of a Boeing 747. John explained that customers would provide data in many different ways, sometimes manuals, sometimes an example of the object and once a set of drawings he had drawn years previously.



A traffic gridlock welcomed us to Bristol for our visit to Roll-Royce on 13th September. It was worth it as we were shown around the £80m plant in which Typhoon engines are built and Tornado engines overhauled. In the afternoon we visited the heritage centre which has engines back to 1914.

### Meetings List

**02Nov11, Guns of the Spitfire**, by David Warhurst, the story of the Poole Royal Ordnance Factory

**04Jan12, Social and Quiz**

**07 March - Operating the Sea Vixen** - Paul Kingsbury

Web site [www.christchurchavsoc.co.uk](http://www.christchurchavsoc.co.uk)

### Schneider 80th Remembered

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1931 the Schneider trophy was won for perpetuity by the Supermarine S6B and its aviation team. John Russell of Euro Seaplane Services Limited, based at Blackbushe, decided that this should not go unnoticed and set about the complex tasks of arranging a programme to fly a similar course around the Solent to give people a tremendous reminder of that significant event with several water landings and an amphibious visit at Calshot. Weather prevented the event running on the Tuesday and the day after was not much better which meant only John in his Cessna 182 seaplane and Oliver Ripoché



in a Sea Max flying boat from Paris were able to fly on the day. Both aircraft made numerous flypasts as well as the planned ramp run which made great photo opportunities and a truly memorable day.



Saturday 24th September saw us visiting the Dorset Police Air Support Unit following Phil Cottrell's talk to us at the AGM. As usual Phil and a colleague's hosting was excellent and there was a callout so we were able to see a take off and landing as well.

### Other Events

For a future visit to the Dorset Air Support Unit, please confirm interest to Steve Robson, weekends only.

If you are interested in a future visit to the JETS hangar at Hurn on a Saturday give your name to Steve Robson.

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